January 17, 2003

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on **January 17**. This issue of Executive Notes is intended to provide you with a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at this meeting.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

Association Priorities for 2002-03
Provincial Executive reviewed the Priorities Document which outlines action plans, who is responsible, target dates for implementation and action updates for the Association. Various Administrative Staff gave updates on sections of the priorities document and answered questions from Provincial Executive. The four priorities are: quality of teachers' work life; membership involvement; communications/public relations; teacher accountability/assessment/professionalism/certification.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

President's Report
Since the November meeting of Provincial Executive the President has continued his visitation program to schools within the Province. To date he has visited almost 200 schools in Newfoundland and Labrador. Many issues have been raised among the teachers in the schools during these visits including problems with workload, new school construction, class size, lack of resources, etc. The President has attended various meetings throughout the province and has also attended meetings with the Canadian Teachers' Federation in his role as Vice-President of CTF.

CTF Report
Provincial Executive was updated on activities at the Canadian Teachers' Federation by Fred Douglas who is presently NLTA's representative on the CTF Board of Directors. For further information contact Fred Douglas, Vice-President.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President.

Labrador Benefits Negotiations
A meeting with a conciliation officer on December 9th brought the parties no closer on the outstanding issues in the Labrador Benefits Negotiations, and we are moving to the next stage of appointing a

nominee and requesting a Conciliation Board. Since May 2002 the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees, the Newfoundland and Labrador Nurses' Union, and the NLTA have been in negotiations with the provincial government to attempt to renegotiate the Labrador Benefits Agreement on behalf of their members. The previous Labrador Benefits Agreement expired March 31, 2002. The Labrador Benefits Agreement is intended to help address recruitment and retention concerns in Labrador brought about by the higher cost of living and isolation.

For further information contact Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

Workload Committee
The NLTA continues to pursue the carrying out of the workload study under Schedule M of the current Collective Agreement. Throughout the Fall of 2002 a number of very successful meetings were held between representatives of the Department of Education, the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, and the NLTA. As a result, all parties have agreed on a researcher who will conduct a literature review, develop a survey instrument, administer a questionnaire, collect and analyse information, and write a report on the subject of teacher workload. During the winter of 2003 teachers can expect to be approached to participate in this study.

For further information contact Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

Business from Standing Committees
TABLE OFFICERS
NLTA will decline the offer from the organizing committee to participate in the "Give to Feel Good" Campaign.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

CURRICULUM COMMITTE'
The issue of Grade 9 CRTs being used as a portion of the studentÕs final grade will be discussed at the next Curriculum Committee meeting.

For further information Contact Ted Murphy, Chair, Curriculum Committee, or Rene Wicks, Professional Development Division.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE
The draft budgets for 2003-04 and 2004-05 were accepted for presentation to Joint Council.

For further information contact Wayne Lee, Chair, Finance and Property Committee, or Jim Fox, NLTA Treasurer.

NLTA Policy

- The NLTA policy of "Presentation of Provincial Awards Outside BGM" will be amended to clarify what expenses are covered for recipients of awards at BGM.

- The NLTA policy "Governing the Election of the NLTA President and Vice-President by Province-wide Vote" will be amended. For further information contact Winston Carter, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

- Fifty percent of the Centennial Study Award will be disbursed upon proof of enrollment to full-time study, and the remaining fifty percent will be awarded on receipt of the student's transcript.

- The professional reference section of the application for the Centennial Study Award will be amended by adding the words: Please attach two letters of professional reference.

- The policy on the Professional Development Fund for Out of Province Grants for Individuals has been amended in subsection iv by changing the amount of $800 to $500 for individuals requesting funding to attend out of province activities. For further information contact Elizabeth Murphy, Chair, Professional Issues in Teaching Committee, or Beverley Park/Rene Wicks, Professional Development Division.

Teacher Certification
The Ad Hoc Committee on Teacher Certification will be re-established. Its purpose will be to review and update the NLTA position statement and policy on teacher certification (1999) with a particular focus on recognizing professional development and its link to certification.

For further information contact Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Office of the Child and Youth Advocate
A presentation was made to Provincial Executive by Mr. Lloyd Wicks from the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate. The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate is an independent office of the House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Labrador. Its mandate is to represent the rights, interests and viewpoints of children and youth who are receiving, or are entitled to receive, service and access to programs provided by the government of this province. Mr. Wicks gave a passionate talk on providing a sanctuary where the voices and rights of children and youth are respected and valued. Contact information can be found on their website, www.childandyouthadvocate.nf.ca.

As a result of the presentation, Provincial Executive decided that the NLTA will provide information to the Office of the Child and Youth

Advocate, through the Communications Division, to assist in the contacting of schools regarding various activities of the office.

For further information contact Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

Collective Bargaining Committee
The members of the Collective Bargaining Committee responsible for preparing a draft set of opening proposals for the upcoming round of bargaining are as follows: Ted Murphy (Chair), Amalgamated Academy, Bay Roberts; Charlie Dillon, Dunne Memorial Academy, St. Mary's; Carmelita Traverse, St. EdwardÕs Elementary, Placentia; Paul Sheppard, Crescent Collegiate, South Dildo; Cindy Churchill (substitute teacher); Robert Clarke, Persalvic Elementary, Victoria; Alice Bridgeman, Avalon East School District; and Perry Downey (staff consultant).

For further information contact Winston Carter, President or Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Partnership Announcement re Virtual Teacher Centre and the Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation
Provincial Executive was updated on the partnership between the NLTA and the Department of Education re the Virtual Teacher Centre. An announcement was made in December by President Winston Carter and the Minister of Education regarding the new on-line professional development partnership between the Department of Education and the NLTA. Through the partnership the two organizations will work together to provide on-line professional development to teachers throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

For further information contact Alex Hickey, Co-ordinator, Virtual Teacher Centre.

Other Business

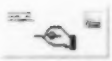
- A session will be held at the next meeting of Provincial Executive to discuss the Provincial Wellness Strategy. For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

- The NLTA will investigate the responsibility of teachers under the Schools Act for children who are involved in the KinderStart program. For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

- The NLTA will again convey to the Directors of Education the Association's objection to the implementation process for KinderStart until such time as the concerns of teachers regarding this program have been addressed. For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

- The Department of Education School Effectiveness Specialists will be invited to attend the next meeting of Provincial Executive. For further information contact Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

- Access to "School Reps On-Line" will be offered to candidates for President and Vice-President who would not otherwise have access. For further information contact Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.



Discussion Topics
The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive for follow-up or future discussion: the KinderStart program, Provincial Wellness Committee, teacher accountability, teacher certification, and Occupational Health and Safety Committees.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **February 20, 2003** in St. John's, followed by a Joint Council meeting on **February 21 and 22**. For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

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